

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 TANGIE 00134 071317Z

65

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-11 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAM-01 SAB-01 ACDA-07 OMB-01 COME-00 EB-07

LAB-04 SIL-01 /102 W

----- 091357

R 070945Z APR 76

FM AMCONSUL TANGIER

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3357

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMCONSUL CASABLANCA

CINCUSNAVEUR

COMSIXTHFLT

FOSIF ROTA

USCINCEUR

USMISSION USUN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE TANGIER 0134

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR PBOR SP GI

SUBJECT: GIBRALTAR

REF: TANGIER 0133

1. I VISITED GIBRALTAR APRIL 4 AND 5 TO DISCUSS THE LATEST POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS AND TO ASSESS THE CURRENT GIBRALTAR ATTITUDE TOWARD SPAIN. I FOUND GIBRALTARIANS MORE PREOCCUPIED WITH LOCAL CONCERNS THAN WITH THE LARGER ISSUE OF THEIR FUTURE STATUS.

2. GIBRALTAR AND SPAIN. THE MAXWELL STAMP REPORT
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 TANGIE 00134 071317Z

"GIBRALTAR-BRITISH OR SPANISH" (SEE REFTTEL) DOES NOT SEEM

TO HAVE HAD ANY REAL IMPACT ON LOCAL THINKING DESPITE THE FLURRY OF EXCITEMENT IT CAUSED TWO WEEKS AGO WHEN PUBLISHED. IT SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN DISMISSED AS SOMETHING TO PONDER ONLY AFTER SPAIN HAS DEMONSTRATED IT IS FIRMLY ON THE ROAD TOWARD DEMOCRACY. WITH SPAIN'S FUTURE POLITICAL COMPLEXION SO UNCERTAIN, GIBRALTARIANS FIND IT DIFFICULT TO THINK SERIOUSLY ABOUT THE ECONOMIC BENEFITS THAT MIGHT BE GAINED THROUGH LINKS WITH SPAIN.

3. GIBRALTARIANS ARE MORE INTERESTED AT THE MOMENT IN VARIOUS INDICATIONS THAT SPAIN MAY RELAX THE BLOCKADE. THEY NOTE WITH SATISFACTION THAT SPANIARDS WITH ACCESS TO PRIVATE BOATS HAVE CONTINUED TO VISIT GIBRALTAR SINCE CHRISTMAS WITHOUT ANY APPARENT DIFFICULTIES FROM THE SPANISH AUTHORITIES. GIBRALTARIANS ANTICIPATE THAT TELEPHONE LINKS WILL BE REOPENED OVER EASTER AS THEY WERE AT CHRISTMAS. THEY HAVE BEEN ENCOURAGED BY REPORTS THAT THE ALGECIRAS-GIBRALTAR FERRY IS BEING REPAINTED AND BY RUMORS CIRCULATING IN ALGECIRAS THAT THE FERRY MAY BE PUT BACK INTO OPERATION SOME TIME SOON. IT SHOULD BE BORN IN MIND, HOWEVER, THAT GIBRALTAR LIKE ANY SMALL COMMUNITY IS A RUMOR MILL. I HAVE NO WAY OF VERIFYING WHETHER THE FERRY IS IN FACT BEING REFURBISHED AND IF SO, WHY. CHIEF MINISTER SIR JOSHUA HASSAN, HOWEVER, HAS IT ON GOOD AUTHORITY, HE SAID, THAT THE GOVERNOR OF THE CAMPO AREA IS PUTTING CONSIDERABLE PRESSURE ON MADRID FOR THE RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF HUMAN LINKS BETWEEN GIBRALTAR AND SPAIN TO INCLUDE THE FERRY, TELEPHONE AND CABLE COMMUNICATIONS, AND MAIL SERVICE. HE SAID, THOUGH, THERE IS NO LIKELIHOOD OF THE FRONTIER RE-OPENING IN THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE. NOT ONLY WOULD THIS STEP GO BEYOND ANYTHING THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT WOULD BE WILLING TO CONTEMPLATE AT THIS TIME IT WOULD ALSO BE RESISTED BY COMMERCIAL INTERESTS IN THE CAMPO AREA WHO FEAR GIBRALTAR MIGHT ONCE AGAIN BECOME A PORT OF ENTRY FOR GOODS INTO SPAIN. THE FERRY LINK WOULD HAVE NO COMMERCIAL OVERTONES OTHER THAN THE TRANSPORTATION OF PASSENGERS.

4. THE ELECTIONS AND PARTY POLITICS. THE GOVERNMENT HAS NOT YET ANNOUNCED THE DATE FOR THIS YEAR'S ELECTIONS BUT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 TANGIE 00134 071317Z

SIR JOSHUA HASSAN INDICATED TO ME THEY WOULD PROBABLY TAKE PLACE IN SEPTEMBER. HE CLAIMS HE HAS NOT YET DECIDED WHETHER HE WILL RUN AGAIN FOR OFFICE THOUGH MOST GIBRALTARIANS CONSIDER HIS CANDIDACY A FOREGONE CONCLUSION. HIS PERSONAL POSITION HAS BEEN ENHANCED OVER THE PAST WEEK BY THE ANNOUNCEMENT THAT THERE WILL BE NO TAX INCREASE IN 1976. INDEED THE GOVERNMENT OF GIBRALTAR MAY BE UNIQUE IN HAVING DISCOVERED IT HAD MORE MONEY IN THE TREASURY

THAN IT "THOUGH" IT HAD. THE OPPOSITION IS CRYING FOUL
PLAY CLAIMING THAT SIR JOSHUA DELIBERATELY OVERTAXED THE
POPULATION LAST YEAR SO HE COULD ENTER THE ELECTIONS WITHOUT
A TAX RISE. SIR JOSHUA, HOWEVER,

DENIES ALL THIS WITH AN AIR OF INNOCENT SURPRISE.

5. IN MY PREVIOUS REPORTS I HAVE POINTED OUT THAT THE
EMERGENCE OF A POSSIBLE LABOR PARTY COULD WELL DEPRIVE
SIR JOSHUA OR ANY OTHER PARTY LEADER OF A CLEAR MAJORITY
IN THE NEXT HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY. IT IS STILL EXPECTED THAT
TRANSPORT UNION LEADER JOE BOSSANO, WHO SPLIT WITH THE
INTEGRATION WITH BRITAIN PARTY LAST FALL, WILL RUN
EITHER AS AN INDEPENDENT OR AS THE LEADER OF A NEW LABOR
PARTY YET TO BE FORMED. ONE OR TWO OF HIS LABOR COLLEAGUES
ARE EXPECTED TO RUN WITH HIM, THOUGH HE IS NOT EXPECTED
TO ENTER THE ELECTIONS WITH A FULL SLATE OF CANDIDATES.
MR. BOSSANO OBVIOUSLY DOES NOT WISH TO RUN THE RISK OF
WINNING A MAJORITY AND HAVING TO LEAVE THE OPPOSITION
TO FORM A GOVERNMENT.

6. A NEW ELEMENT SEEMS TO BE FORMING ON GIBRALTAR'S
POLITICAL SCENE. A WEALTHY RETIRED, THOUGH STILL FORTYISH,
GIBRALTARIAN BY THE NAME OF BENADY, HAS LET IT BE KNOWN TO
HIS FRIENDS THAT HE WILL STAND AS AN INDEPENDENT. MR.
BENADY, I AM TOLD, FEELS GIBRALTAR SHOULD BE SHAPING ITS
INSTITUTIONS TOWARD THE DAY WHEN RELATIONS BETWEEN THE
ROCK AND SPAIN MIGHT RETURN TO "NORMAL." HE SEES THE
HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY AND GIBRALTAR'S MINISTERIAL GOVERNMENT
AS TRAPPINGS OF SEMI-SOVEREIGNTY AND BELIEVES THEY MUST
BE A CONSIDERABLE ANNOYANCE TO THE SPANISH AUTHORITIES.
HE WOULD THEREFORE LIKE TO SEE GIBRALTAR RETURN TO A CITY
COUNCIL FORM OF GOVERNMENT. I HAVE NOT YET BEEN ABLE TO
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 04 TANGIE 00134 071317Z

MEET MR. BENADY BUT I GATHER HE CONSIDERS HIMSELF A REALIST
WITH POSITIVE IDEAS THAT COULD HELP PAVE THE WAY TOWARD
BETTER RELATIONS WITH SPAIN WITHOUT ABANDONMENT OF
GIBRALTAR'S HISTORIC TIES WITH BRITAIN. HE WILL BE AN
INTERESTING CANDIDATE TO WATCH IF INDEED HE DOES RUN.

7. WAGE NEGOTIATIONS. NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE GOVERN-
MENT AND THE TRANSPORT UNION WITH RESPECT TO WORKERS IN
THE PUBLIC SECTOR ARE STILL GOING ON. FROM ALL INDICATIONS
MOST OF THE DETAILS HAVE BEEN WORKED OUT AND A WAGE
SETTLEMENT BASED ON PARITY WITH GREAT BRITAIN, AS RECOMMENDED
IN THE SCAMP REPORT LAST SUMMER, SHOULD BE ANNOUNCED WITHIN
THE NEXT FEW WEEKS. SOME GROUPS OF WORKERS WITHIN THE
PUBLIC SECTOR, MOSTLY SKILLED EMPLOYEES IN THE HIGHER
SALARY BRACKETS REPRESENTED BY OTHER UNIONS, HAVE

ALREADY REACHED WAGE AGREEMENTS WITH THE OFFICIAL EMPLOYERS
AND HAVE COLLECTED LUMP SUM PAYMENTS FOR THEIR RETROACTIVE
WAGE INCREASES. WITH SUMMER HOLIDAYS RAPIDLY APPROACHING,
MEMBERS OF THE DOMINANT TRANSPORT UNION ARE PUTTING CON-
SIDERABLE PRESSURE ON UNION LEADERS TO BRING THEIR WAGE
NEGOTIATIONS TO A RAPID CONCLUSION. EASTMAN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DEPENDENCIES, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 APR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976TANGIE00134
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760131-0730
From: TANGIER
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760486/aaaacvfv.tel
Line Count: 175
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 TANGIER 133
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 MAY 2004 by buchant0>; APPROVED <07 SEP 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GIBRALTAR
TAGS: PFOR, PBOR, SP, GI
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006